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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-01 SP-02 L-01

IO-03 PRS-01 INR-05 INRE-00 SSO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01

CIAE-00 /042 W
---------- 051396
O R 131243Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3762
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4611

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: POWER STRUGGLE

REF: LISBON 4600 DTG 122031Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: LOURENCO PROBABLY DELIVERED ULTIMATUM TO AUGUST 12 MEETING OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. OTELO IS MEETING TODAY WITH COPCON OFFICERS ON ANTUNES DOCUMENT. SOCIALISTS ARE COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH ANTUNES AND HAVE SCHEDULED MASSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS FOR AUGUST 14. ALTHOUGH ANTUNES GROUP SEEMS TO BE STICKING TO THEIR TIMETABLE, ANTUNES'S ADVERSARIES ARE STRONG AND SKILLFUL. END SUMMARY.

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AUG 12 MEETING BETWEEN LOURENCO AND THE
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REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) RESULTED IN LOURENCO PRESENTING WHAT

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AMOUNTED TO AN ULTIMATUM TO THE COUNCIL (REFTEL). ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET CONFIRMED THIS REPORT, WE CONSIDER IT PROBABLY TRUE. IT FITS INTO THE OVERALL SCENARIO DESCRIBED TO US BY ANTUNES SUPPORTERS.

2. COPCON MEETING: IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, COPCON COMMANDER OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO IS MEETING ON MORNING OF AUGUST 13 WITH OVER 100 UNIT COMMANDERS AND OFFICERS TO DISCUSS THE ANTUNES DOCUMENT.

3. SOCIALISTS SUPPORT AND COORDINATION: WE HAVE IT FROM A SOARES AIDE THAT SOARES CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ANTUNES. FOR EXAMPLE, HE WAS WITH ANTUNES UNTIL 4:00 A.M. ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 11-12. THE SOCIALISTS ARE PLANNING MASSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS IN OPORTO, LISBON, AND PORTIMAO ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 14 TO SUPPORT THE ANTUNES GROUP. (FATIMA RELIGIOUS CELEBRATION TODAY WILL ALSO BE INTERPRETED AS SIGN OF SUPPORT FOR ANTUNES).

4. COMMENT: BY PORTUGUESE STANDARDS THINGS ARE MOVING WITH UNEXPECTED SPEED AND SEEM TO BE MEETING THE ANTUNES TIMETABLE FOR RESOLVING SITUATION BY END OF THIS WEEK. SOCIALIST DEMONSTRATIONS WILL PROVIDE TIMELY SHOW OF POPULAR SUPPORT AT CRITICAL MOMENT. NEVERTHELESS, AS EMBASSY HAS REPORTED IN PREVIOUS CABLES, STRENGTH AND SKILL OF ANTUNES'S ADVERSARIES MUST NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. ALSO TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IS THE PORTUGUESE PROPENSITY FOR PROCRASTINATION, PLUS THEIR GENERAL FECKLESSNESS. OKUN

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